

## Gratitude Week Makes a Splash On and Off Campus



Look inside for a sneak peek at our Spring Wendt Character Lecture (p.5).

This year's Gratitude week projects included:

- Dubuque Police Department
- Fire Station #4
- UD Campus Security
- Mercy Hospital ER Staff
- UD/UDTS Faculty Members
- Military Units deployed overseas
- UD students' loved ones

See more on pages 6-7.



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## Scholars' Christmas Banquet

President and Dana Bullock joined the Wendt Character Scholars for their 2015 Christmas Banquet.

The evening was full of mingling, singing, and a delicious meal, along with a thoughtful prayer and reflection by the President.

See page 2 for more pictures.



# Character Scholars

## Scholars' Christmas Banquet (cont'd)



### EAGLES' "EYES ON THE FUTURE" By Scholar Kasey Benson



Kasey Benson

The Dubuque Eagles' "Eyes on the Future" Committee consists of a group of Dubuque students dedicated to serving people in need. Local philanthropist Michael Duehr created this committee when he noticed that the Dubuque Eagles did not have a place for youth participants. The "Eyes on the Future" committee includes student-members from local middle schools, high schools, and colleges—including some UD students, like me.

The committee's main focus is to help people who are in desperate need. We sponsor Burger Nights at the Eagles Club, which raises funds to help groups like "Toys for Tots,"

D.A.R.E. programs, and homeless shelters. We also help serve meals at the rescue mission and food pantry, participate in "Make a Difference Day" in Dubuque, volunteer at the Dubuque Humane Society, and take part in many other service projects.

Our biggest event of the year is "Passion for Service Day." During this year's event, we volunteered at the Area Labor Harvest Food Giveaway, and then delivered food to six homeless shelters in Dubuque. Afterward, we helped a local church package more food that will be delivered to the homeless shelters, then finished the day raking leaves in the yards of community members who were unable to do it for themselves.

Members of the Eagles "Eyes on the Future" committee received two awards last year: one from the Governor of Iowa, Terry Branstad and the Lieutenant Governor, Kim Reynolds, and another presented by Senator Pam Jochum, President of the Iowa Senate. Both awards were in recognition of our dedication and commitment to service in Dubuque, and for helping those who are less fortunate in our community.

I am proud to call myself a member of the Dubuque Eagles "Eyes on the Future" Committee, and I enjoy helping others whenever I can.

*I am proud to call myself a member of the Dubuque Eagles "Eyes on the Future" Committee, and I enjoy helping others whenever I can.*

— Scholar Kasey Benson



Left to Right: Michael Duehr, Kasey Benson, and President Bullock celebrate Kasey's award.



## Prison Ministry By Scholar Tiffany Garcea

Last year, there was one speaker from our Wendt Character program who really stuck out to me, and that was Sister Helen Prejean. When Sister Helen began to speak about all of the injustice found in our legal system, particularly in the way in which this injustice effects inmates, my heart was greatly moved. For quite some time I had felt a call to minister to inmates, but it was Sister Helen's words that gave me the final push that I needed.



Tiffany Garcea

I now have been faithfully volunteering as the chaplain of the Jo Daviess County Jail and Sheriff's Office in Galena, IL since this past summer. I have the pleasure of sitting down

***I love hearing the heartfelt discussions that take place and it brings tears to my eyes to see how God is working in this jail.***

**— Scholar Tiffany Garcea**

each Tuesday evening with a group of men (and sometimes women), to discuss the amazing grace of God and the effect that God's grace has upon our lives.

It is a challenging ministry, but also a very rewarding one. I love hearing the heartfelt discussions that take place and it brings tears to my eyes to see how God is working in this jail. Bible and devotional donations have flooded in for this ministry. The inmates not only are reading their Bibles and devotionals, but they are also sharing them with others.

God is so good and doing great things here in our jail. At least one man has reached out after his release to share that he met God in that jail and has since become a Christian. What a blessing!

## SERVICE PROJECTS

From tutoring and mentoring children to helping the physically impaired to helping out at the Humane Society to volunteering for community programs and events, our scholars have been busy this semester.

So far, they have completed 1157 service hours—and counting! See below for a few snapshots of their service.



## CONGRATS, DECEMBER WENDT CHARACTER SCHOLAR GRADS!



Brenda Nava



Nicholas Rivera

## APPLY TO BE A SCHOLAR

Applications for new Wendt Character Scholars are open! Apply between **December 1-January 31** at <http://www.dbq.edu/Wendt/CharacterScholars/Applications/>. All full-time undergraduate and seminary students able to commit to a full year in the program are eligible to apply.

# What's New?

## UD Mediation Team Awards

Congratulations to the UD Mediation Team for their strong showing in the recent 16th International Undergraduate Mediation Tournament. Members won numerous awards in the team mediation and team advocate/client categories, as well as winning the "Spirit of Mediation Award" and placing among the top 15 All-American mediators. They beat out many nationally-ranked teams.

Among the Mediation team members is 2nd year Wendt Character Scholar, De'Shaun Madkins. Congratulations to our Mediation students!



## NONTOMBI NAOMI TUTU & COURAGEOUS COMPASSION

We enjoyed hearing Ms. Nontombi Naomi Tutu speak on her definition of Courageous Compassion during the Fall 2015 Wendt Character Lecture on October 19.



Visit <http://www.dbq.edu/Wendt/CharacterLectures/> to hear a clip from the lecture.

## 2015 J-TERMS TAKE ON HIV/AIDS & BULLYING

by Dr. Amy Baus

Last January, UD Mental Health Therapist for Student Support Services and Assistant Director of Programming for Advocacy and Prevention, Tabitha Bartelme, facilitated a J-term course focused on "HIV/AIDS Outreach & Education." The course reviewed the global problem and role that social, behavioral, and economic factors play in the spread of the epidemic. Students traveled to Los Angeles to engage in educational sessions with WRHAP (Whittier Rio Hondo Aids Project), whose mission is to minister to the needs of a community impacted by HIV/AIDS by providing support, understanding, and prevention programming.



HIV/AIDS Outreach and Education students in LA

Meanwhile, UD Director of Career & Life Services, Amy Baus, facilitated a course on the "Culture of Bullying." This course helped students understand bullying tactics and their psychological and social impacts. Students completed service-learning projects in collaboration with the Dubuque Community Schools' Green Dot Grant Program, which promotes positive social interactions among youth and identifies their social challenges. Trained UD students facilitated small group activities focused on bullying, kindness, and respect for over 200 youth.



## Seth Naicker Lecture



South African Seth Naicker describes his work as “change and reconciliation entrepreneurship.” His goal is transformation. Mr. Naicker spoke to the Wendt Character Scholars October 12. He had people on their feet singing and laughing.

### Mr. Seth Naicker

“Seth Naicker is an incredibly passionate speaker,” exclaimed senior Nyashadzashe Makayi, a first-year Wendt scholar. “I loved the fact that he talked about taking action instead of waiting for someone to hold our hand to do it.”

UDTS scholar Sara Sutter added, “Seth’s work and time with us is a great catalyst for action. I appreciate how he expects people to move to action and be honest. . . We can learn a lot from him and others who boldly tell the truth.”

Naicker manages indieAfrique Training and Development Company and has come regularly to Dubuque to work in the community.

## RAIS BHUIYAN TO GIVE 2016 SPRING CHARACTER LECTURE

Join us at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 21, 2016 for the Spring Wendt Character Lecture on *The Courage to Forgive*, given by Mr. Rais Bhuiyan.

A victim of a violent hate crime, Mr. Bhuiyan later fought to save his attacker’s life. Bhuiyan created the World Without Hate campaign to promote healing, compassion and forgiveness. He has since received the 2011 American of the Year designation from Esquire Magazine, and the Excellence for Human Service Award from United for Change.



We are looking forward to hearing Mr. Bhuiyan’s words on forgiveness and courageous compassion.

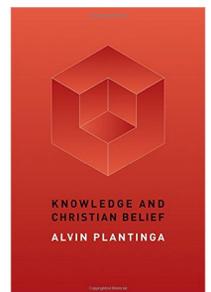
## CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

Visit [Wendt.dbq.edu](http://Wendt.dbq.edu) to see our new look and learn more about us.



## KNOWLEDGE AND CHRISTIAN BELIEF

A second Wendt Book Discussion this fall delved into philosophy with the book, *Knowledge and Christian Belief* by Alvin Plantinga. Hosted by Paul Jensen and Sean Benson, the discussion ranged from debate to teaching lecture to earnest conversation.



With good natured challenge, Dr. Dale Easley kept the debate going over email between sessions, and brought insightful questioning to each meeting. The resulting, lively discussions encouraged all to raise questions and comments.

Prof. Jensen notes, “This book, is intended for the ordinary Christian believer who is willing to think carefully and deeply about the Christian faith.”

# Character on Campus

## Gratitude Week 2015 (cont'd)



The Wendt Character Scholars and Mentors were busy during Gratitude Week. Group projects included:

- Providing thank-you posters to the Dubuque police force and thank-you cards and food/drink to the UD Campus Security staff (Dr. Hallstoos' Group).
- Recognizing Fire Station #4 on University Ave., including a fire hydrant lollipop bouquet, a large microwave sign, and a meal (Professor Saleh's group).
- Offering treats in the Heritage Center to those who called people for whom they are grateful to express their thanks, and submitting thank-you cards to Mercy ER staff (Dr. Slemmons' group).
- Working with UD's Sergeant Jeffrey B. Dodge Veteran's Center to raise funds and put together care packages for three UD alumni and the step-father of a current UD student and their military units currently deployed overseas, including personal letters of thanks from students (Dr. Wolf's group).
- Creating and sending major department-specific letters and individual candy-grams with notes of appreciation to all full-time UD/UDTS faculty members (Dr. Yartey's group).





# Gratitude Week 2015 (cont'd)



**Courageous Compassion** is this year's Wendt theme. Join us in looking for ways you can show courageous compassion on campus, in the community, and beyond!

## MEMPHIS: THE MUSICAL

The University of Dubuque's fall production of *Memphis: The Musical*, directed by our own Professor Amy Ressler, told the story of overcoming bigotry and racism through compassion and common identity. Here are a few shots from the show.



# Staff Note

## Gratitude by Patience McCarty

At the Wendt Character Initiative, we believe the journey to becoming excellent, character-filled persons begins with gratitude. Gratitude begets awareness, which calls for responsiveness, which manifests itself in acts of service.

So, what does “gratitude” mean? Merriam-Webster defines it as “a feeling of appreciation or thanks.” That’s a start. But I don’t think that quite covers it.

***The more I focused on gratitude, the more grateful I became. And not only did my gratitude grow, but it became a wellspring for many other good things. . . Gratitude was seed for all the rest.***

When I began as Administrative Assistant for the Wendt Center for Character Education last fall, I helped plan for Gratitude Week. I was impressed by the time and effort our scholars and faculty mentors put in to showing their appreciation for people who had impacted their lives. I even got a note of thanks from the scholars. Gratitude Week reminded me how good it feels to be appreciated. But, even more, I began to think about who I was grateful for. And the results were astounding.

I could name so many people who helped shape me—whether through specific actions, or simply through their loving presence. The longer I thought about it, the longer the list grew. I discovered something else, too: the more I focused on gratitude, the more grateful I became. And not only did my gratitude grow, but it became a wellspring for many other good things: joy, faithfulness, love, integrity, justice, compassion. Gratitude was seed for all the rest.

I believe that, when we see what we have, and when we are truly and humbly grateful for those gifts, we begin to understand how much we have to share. We begin to feel *integrity’s* pull—to realize our responsibility to be stewards of what we have been given. We begin to experience *compassion* for those who need what we have to share. We begin to feel a sense of *justice*, wanting the same good we experience to be shared by those in our family, our community, our world.

Gratitude is vital to living the Gospel message. Through gratitude, we love others; and through loving others, we love God. May we live this understanding in earnest, and may gratitude transform us as we seek to live lives of integrity, justice, and compassion.

### WENDT CENTER FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION



**Dr. Annalee Ward**  
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